THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 29th March 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past ten of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Automatic Cone-Winding Machines

* 215 *Q*.—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN (on behalf of SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been received from the women workers in textile mills at Coimbatore about the usage of automatic cone-winding machines; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The question of displacement of women workers in textile mills in Coimbatore district due to the introduction of cone-winding machines was discussed at a meeting of the State Labour Advisory Board held on 27th August 1960, and as recommended by the Board, a conference of mill managements and trade unions was convened by the Commissioner of Labour during October 1960, to explore the possibility of arriving at a solution for the problem. At the above conference, it was decided that a committee consisting of both the managements and labour should be formed to examine the question. The Government have authorised the Commissioner of Labour to take further action in the matter and his report is awaited.

In the meantime the Commissioner of Labour has requested the Chairman, Southern Iindia Textile Mill-Owner's Association to advise its member mills to hold in abeyance any proposal for retrenchment of women labour.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is there any proposal before the Government as to how far we should mechanise and where we should stop in order to avoid displacement of manual labour?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We have already settled the principle with regard to that. All rationalisation and mechanisation should be limited to the extent of the absorption of the surplus labour. That is to say, any person, who is rendered surplus on account of mechanisation, should be absorbed either in the same or any of its allied industries. That is called 'rationalisation without tears.'